



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE SILVER STAR  
TO  
AIRMAN FIRST CLASS MICHAEL A. CURTIS

Airman First Class Michael A. Curtis distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force near Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 February 1971. On that date, as a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53 Rescue Helicopter, Airman Curtis' efforts culminated in the rescue of two United States Air Force aircrewman from certain death or capture by hostile armed forces. With full knowledge of the extent of hostile fire in the area and complete disregard for his own personal safety, and despite the helicopters receiving numerous hits by ground fire, Airman Curtis exposed himself to the hostile fire throughout the rescue effort to provide suppressive fire, preventing much greater damage to the helicopter, and insuring the safe rescue of the downed airmen. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Airman Curtis has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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